



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES NATIONAL JUNIOR RANGER DAY

Tucson, AZ – Saturday, April 20 is Junior Ranger Day across the nation and the beginning of National Park Week. Both districts of Saguaro National Park will celebrate with events and activities for families and their children.

The Rincon Mountain District (RMD - east) will celebrate with a morning of fun learning activities for all ages at the Rincon Mountain District (Saguaro East) Visitor Center from 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Presented by Saguaro's "Cactus Ranger" volunteers, the event will offer a preview of the kinds of programs kids will find at the park's summer Junior Ranger Day Camp.

"Families are invited to participate" said Ranger Jeff Wallner, coordinator of the program. "We'll focus on a different aspect of the park each half hour during the event, with games and hands-on activities. The day's activities will take place throughout the morning, so participants can come and go any time and drop-ins are welcome. The Cactus Rangers are eager to share their favorite memories from their own camp experiences."

For information on RMD activities, contact Jeff Wallner: jeff_wallner@nps.gov / 520 733 5152.

The Tucson Mountain District (TMD - west) will celebrate with a sunset, twilight, and near full moon, exploration of the desert for families with children from 7 to 17. The event takes place in the Tucson Mountain District (Saguaro West) from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. and meets at the Education Center.

"Magical and mysterious happenings occur in the desert at night," explains Ranger Chip Littlefield. This is an opportunity for families to explore the park after dark and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the desert night. The hike will be an easy walk while exploring a wash, gazing at the sunset, listening for the magical call of Elf owls, and walking in the paw prints of bobcats. As darkness falls, rangers will share stories about nocturnal park life and answer curious questions about the park after dark. Walk back under the light of the waxing half-moon. Water and sturdy footwear are required to participate. Headlamps are available on loan for comfort and safety.

The program is free, space is limited, and advanced reservations are required. Contact Chip Littlefield for additional information on TMD activities, or to make a reservation: chip_littlefield@nps.gov / 520.733.5157.

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